

The TATtler

Topcliffe and Asenby Times

Love is Still Sweet The Second Time Around

It's taken 60 years but at last Joyce and Roy Smith finally became man and wife after what can best be described as a long and winding road.

The couple met when Joyce was sixteen and Roy was working near her family home on the farm at Castle Howard. They went out for a while but Joyce's mother put an end to the romance; they parted and Joyce's family moved away. Eventually, Roy found work at a farm in Thirsk while she settled in Ripon.



During the next 60 years they each married and raised families. Joyce and her husband, Les, had 4 children, 13 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. Sadly, her son died suddenly at the age of 58 following a stroke, leaving a wife and 6 children, including 2 sets of twins. Roy and his wife, Betty, had 3 children, 6 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. His life has also been blighted by tragedy. His son, who suffered from MS, died at 29, then, more recently, he lost a daughter with cancer.

Joyce was married for 54 years until her husband's death. Four years later she and her sister were leaving Thirsk library when she saw Roy parking his car. She recognized him immediately, despite 60 years having passed, and, having heard that he had recently lost Betty, spoke to him offering her condolences.

This was the beginning of a special friendship. Now, after being together for seven years, the couple have

finally married. After the ceremony at Northallerton Registry Office, there was a reception for family and close friends at The Crosby in Thornton-le-Beans.

Joyce and Roy share several hobbies, indoor and outdoor bowling, boccia and the Tuesday Club at Topcliffe Village Hall, and the Luncheon Club in Dishforth.

From their story, and when meeting them, it's clear the couple are exceptionally positive and resilient. Though their lives have known sadness and pain, they're brave enough, and practical enough, to focus on their very contented relationship.

Fantastic Family Fun At The Angel

On Easter Monday, The Angel at Topcliffe held a Family Fun Day for Local Youngsters, their parents and grandparents. With an Easter Egg hunt, bouncy castle, face painting, craft activities and even a visit from a friendly 'Minion'. There was lots to keep children of all ages entertained.

The next Family Fun Day at The Angel will be held on the Bank Holiday Monday in August.



Jenny and Annabel Bumby looking gorgeous and ready for the party.



The hog looking delicious on the spit. He was heard to say though, that he'd had better Bank Holiday Mondays.

Clearing Up After The Litterati

Asenby is now officially sparkling clean after a group of community-minded villagers set forth and gave it a proper going over, spearing rubbish and generally tidying up.



The community-minded volunteers were from left to right: Grahame Marsden, Peter, Isaac and Jack Lowe, Helen and Nigel Brook, Jane Stringer, Carole Ford, Peter Palmer, Mel Arkley, and Joy and Tristan Port at the back. Newcomers to the village, Sam and Elaine, also laboured but disappeared for Sunday lunch before the camera was produced.

If the Litterati were enjoying a nice Sunday lie-in while all this industry was taking place, then you might just be feeling a twinge of guilt! I hope so.

Please Keep Your Trees Trimmed

Please keep your trees and bushes trimmed. Branches which overhang footpaths and roads cause both inconvenience and a danger to the public when they have to step into the road, or damage vehicles.



The Deer Shed

The sixth edition of the Deer Shed Festival returns to Baldersby Park from 24th to 26th July 2015. As always the organisers have asked us to publish a telephone number that local residents can call over the festival weekend to communicate any issues relating to noise coming from the site.

That telephone number is 07934 349468 and it will be answered whilst the event is in progress.

As ever this increasingly popular event requires volunteers to run well and if you would like to volunteer, in return for a free weekend ticket, please find details at www.deershedfestival.com/volunteer

If you have any other concerns that you wish to express please email info@deershedfestival.com

It's worth looking on the website www.deershedfestival.com to see the list of fantastic events and entertainers booked for the festival, including Mark Watson (not the resident of Topcliffe - the other one), Richard Hawley, Anna Calvi, Beth Orton, Andy Kershaw and lots more.

Parish Council News

The last year has been a constructive one, with three projects completed on time and to budget, while we have also experienced change. The PC said good bye to Debbie Alderson, who retired as Clerk for personal reasons, and we all wish her well. We said hello to our new Clerk Alex Little. Alex is also Clerk to Sowerby PC. With her wealth of experience, Alex is a welcome addition to the team. Also, our PC finances are in good order and very sound.

Regarding Projects - the Magna Carta (MC) events and installation are complete except for the planting of 10 MC roses which have arrived and will be placed in a raised bed in the restored old church cemetery. The planting will be done by pupils from the school. Overlooking the river Swale, this will provide a picturesque, serene and contemplative place and will add to the legacy of the project. We are still awaiting the cutting from an 800 year old Oak Tree, soon to arrive, which also be placed in the church yard.

Thanks to a Big Lottery award, the play park has been upgraded with the addition of £10,000 worth of new equipment and some minor modifications made to the older set, providing better provision for 2-6 year olds.

Turning now to sport: congratulations to Topcliffe AFC for winning the league and promotion. And to the school teams that have done really well winning several gold medals and reaching county finals. This has been strongly assisted by the generous support of three local businesses who financed the PC to purchase a new set of high quality Adidas sports kit which looks fabulous.

Finally at the PC AGM Lyn Wallis became the new Vice-Chair taking over from Dave Bowman who has been a loyal and diligent Vice-Chair for many years, and we would like to thank him for agreeing to remain on the PC.

During this year a group of public spirited parishioners led by Alan and Linda Nuttall, have been carrying out extensive clearance work at The Sheepwash to improve its amenity and the health of the trees. Fantastic results have been achieved but they need help. If you would like to take part please contact Alan on 577315.

Garry Keyes

www.Topcliffe.net & www.Asenby.net

Keep up to date with Parish information, meeting minutes, a electronic version of The TATtler and all the pictures of Topcliffe, Asenby and the surrounding area.

Topcliffe School Skipathon

Topcliffe School held a Skipathon on Sports Relief Day which meant an exhausting day with skipping ropes. Yes, despite the healthy sales of X-boxes, youngsters today can still skip. They raised £112.58. Next issue - tops and whips and marbles.



Village Hall News

The Village Hall Committee would like to give you a short update on the progress of the Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall Improvement Project.

As many of you will have witnessed, work on the village hall started in mid-March and has progressed well, despite a few hold-ups due to the weather. The foundations, external walls and roof trusses of the new build are now complete. However, a few unforeseen issues have arisen that may slightly extend the completion date a little. Unfortunately, when the foundations were exposed, we found there weren't any! Or very few, and certainly not to any current building regulations. This now requires remedial work in order to underpin the whole of the front of the building, at extra, and unbudgeted, cost. Thankfully we had anticipated that there might be a few hiccups, and so will cover the additional cost from the village hall funds.

Looking to the future, we're planning to organise an opening event, probably in July/August. Please contact any of the committee members if you have any ideas or would like to help with organising the event. Peter Wright, who co-stars in the "Yorkshire Vet" series, has accepted our invitation to perform the opening ceremony but sadly girls he's the older one of the two vets on the show!



Peter, Judith and Doug, members of the Village Hall Committee, helping out with renovations.

Do keep an eye on the progress of the village hall when you're passing. Hopefully the roof will be on by the time you're reading this, and work should be starting on the internals and facia. Read the next edition of The Tattler for more up-to-date news on the renovations as well as on plans for the opening ceremony.

*Andrew Eckersley
Chairman of the Village Hall Committee*

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Brick In The Hall Prize Winners

The village hall committee agreed to hold a prize draw when each thousand pounds was raised from the Brick in the Hall scheme. The idea was to give supporters a chance to win something back.

The third such draw was held in April 2016 and the winners were Dr Charles Parker - £50, Peter & Rita Simmerson - £25 and Jane & Nigel Graham - £25. All winners kindly agreed to reinvest their winnings in buying more bricks. Thanks to each of them.

The Brick in the Hall scheme is now closed, though donations towards the village hall improvements are still welcome. Everyone who has already contributed will have their name included on a special supporters plaque that is being produced and will be prominently displayed on the outer wall of the new entrance lobby. We can include additional names of donors up until the date which the plaque is finalised, which is likely to be the late June or early July.

Grants Awarded:

A full list of charities and organisations that have kindly supported the Village Hall improvements is below.

Kitchen Refurbishment:

National Lottery: Awards for All - £10,000

Hambleton Council - £5,000

Broadacres - £500

Major Improvements

WREN's FCC Community Action Fund - £49,860

Yorventure - £37,020

Armed Forces Covenant Fund - £8,100

Garfield Weston Trust - £7,500

Harrogate Council - £2,994

Bernard Sunley Foundation - £2,500

Sir George Martin Trust - £1,000

Jack Brunton Trust - £1,000

Two Ridings Community Foundation - £1,000

Barchester Healthcare Foundation - £1,000

Skinner's Company - Lady Neville Charity - £650

Locality Funds (North Yorkshire county councillors Margaret Atkinson and Bob Baker) - £600

Operational Activities:

Paristamens CIO - £250

In total, including local fundraising such as Brick in the Hall and events, our two communities have managed to raise an amazing £140,000. Well done to all concerned.

Doug Allan



Many Congratulations to Topcliffe Football Team on winning the League. Eat your heart out Jose Mourinho!

News Report From Asenby

Tuesday Club

The Tuesday Club meets every week throughout the year, usually between 1.30-3.30, in the village hall. Most afternoons the group plays boccia and curling, games suitable for all abilities and ages. It's great fun and we have lots of laughs, but there's a definite competitive edge. We also have matches with Husthwaite which has resulted in our making some new friends, though that doesn't mean that we don't try our hardest to beat them and bring home the shields! At the moment we have 12 regular members but are always happy to welcome more. If you're free on Tuesday afternoons, do come along. Tea and cake are always served at half-time.

On the first Tuesday of the month, trips or interesting speakers are organised. We've been to Masham and enjoyed fish and chips and ice-cream; been on a canal trip; sailed the River Tees, enjoying lunch aboard the boat while admiring the scenery; visited Ampleforth School, potted round Strikes' Garden Centre; and experienced a railway trip, as well as a bus ride, through the Dales. Visiting the village hall, we've played host to the U3A ukelele group, The Northallerton hand bell ringers, exercise sessions and hand and feet massage sessions, as well as enjoying an all-male barbers' shop choir.

All the trips are cheap as we use the community mini bus and everyone has a great time. Suggestions as to where we visit are always welcome but have to be fairly local and accessible to the less mobile.

So - no need to sit at home - at least not on Tuesday afternoons. Why not come once to see how you like it? Making new friends, especially combined with gentle exercise, or an interesting trip, will definitely leave you a happier person.

Library

The library is in the back room of the village hall and there is a huge selection of books. Just come in and help yourself on Tuesday afternoons between 3-5pm. If you have books to donate we would be very grateful. Do make use of this excellent village amenity.

Sowerby House

Many of us know someone in Sowerby House and, as the staff are holding a Summer Fete soon, they're looking for volunteers to organise a stall or contribute to the event in some way. All monies go towards entertaining and making the residents more comfortable. If you feel you could help ring 577911.

Judith Lowe



The TATtler

Topcliffe and Asenby Produce Show!

Saturday 3rd September 2016

Entries: should be taken to the Village Hall between 9am and 11am.

Judging: 12 noon - 2pm.

Public Viewing of exhibits: 2 - 3.30pm

Trophy presentation and raffle: 3pm

Removal of Exhibits: by 4pm

Open to residents of Topcliffe and Asenby, registered owners at Swaleside Caravan Park and those who grow produce on allotments within the village boundaries.



A list of Categories and a copy of the Rules can be obtained from Judith Lowe (577911) or either village website - www.asenby.net or www.topcliffe.net

A Date For Your Diary

By popular request, CALL MY WINE BLUFF is returning to Topcliffe and Asenby village hall.

Chris and Pauline Millross, who have been in Asenby for 22 years, previously organised this event in the village hall as well as at Asenby Hall and will do so again on 30th September.

For anybody not in the know, CALL MY WINE BLUFF is a fun evening based on a combination of a wine tasting (but not a serious one) and the TV panel game 'Call My Bluff'. There will be six wines (3 white, 3 red) for sampling. Three 'experts' will give a different description of each wine, only one of which will be true. The object is to guess (or, if you are lucky enough to have it, use your knowledge of wine to work out) which is the correct description and the price of the wine.

The event is being held to raise funds for Chris & Pauline's 16 year old granddaughter Molly who is joining a Camps International expedition to Tanzania in 2017. Whilst there Molly could be involved in projects such as:

- Refurbishing homes for the elderly
- Refurbishing schools and making desks
- Interactive sport sessions with schools
- Wildlife conservation and environmental projects

Your support would be much appreciated. For more information contact Chris or Pauline on 577961.

NEWS FROM THE ELM GALLERY

We can't believe that we've already been open for almost 6 months! It's been a lovely time, getting to know new people in the village and from further afield.

We're gradually increasing the range of things we sell in the gallery, so in addition to our original paintings, prints and cards, we've got some wonderful ceramics made by several different people. Some are functional items like mugs, bowls and jugs, whilst others include quirky dogs, cats, donkeys and Swaledale sheep. We've also got two ranges of jewellery, one made in York and the other made in Scotland. We took delivery of some beautiful handmade glass recently too, as well as a lovely collection of country baskets. If you're looking for a gift, please call in and see what we've got.

For several weeks we've spent a couple of days delivering gallery flyers to different villages nearby. Some letterboxes are downright vicious and we've both had scraped knuckles! A few weeks ago, we were delivering flyers in Catton and got a new addition to the family. We'd gone to Jerry Green Rescue Centre with some flyers and fell in love with a rescue dog that was in the reception area. We'd been looking for a dog and wanted a medium size one that was 2-3 years old, but Rocky is large and over 9 years old. He is a lovely affectionate dog but still hasn't got used to hearing the buzzer that sounds in the house when someone comes into the gallery. Please don't be put off by the barking when you come - he's only allowed into the gallery to see people he knows. He has a very waggly tail so he's not allowed in very often, now that we've got more fragile things in stock!

We will be attending a few local events over the summer and having a stall with a small selection of things just to publicise the gallery so if you see us, please come and say hello.

Liz and Dave Marsh



Here's Rocky, the new member of staff at the Elm Gallery. I think he might be a curator or perhaps a bouncer.

Snooker Club

At only £25 a year, the Snooker Club situated in the Toll Booth, is excellent value. There are two tables, one full size and one three quarters; the club is heated, and you get your own key so you can play whenever you like. The club welcomes new members but under-18s must be accompanied by parents. Contact Dave Bowman on 577843



The TATtler

A Day At The Palace

Topcliffe resident, Doug Allan, who has worked hard raising cash to pay for the improvements to our village hall, had an important appointment with Her Majesty the Queen last month.

Doug was invited to the first of this year's Royal Garden Parties at Buckingham Palace in recognition of his services to education. He is the Secretary of a national campaign seeking fairer funding for schools.



He's pictured here in the palace grounds...and he is adamant he had nothing to do with those conversations about rude Chinese diplomats!

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Things To Do This Summer

June

Sat 11 to Sun 12: Newby Hall, Ripon HG4 5AJ. Tractor Fest. £10, seniors £9, child £8, under 4s free.

Sat 11: St Oswalds Church, Sowerby, Thirsk YO7 1JG. Sowerby Music. Tel: 518001 tickets: White Rose Bookcafe. www.sowerbymusic.org.uk

Tue 14: Sacred Heart Catholic Church Hall, Thirsk Rd., Northallerton. Northallerton Local History Society. President's Evening. 'Viking Hoards in Yorkshire'. Natalie McCaul. 7.00pm.

Thu 16 to Sun 19: Hillside Rural Activites Park, Knayton, Thirsk YO7 4AN. Willowman Festival. 4 days of live music. Headliners: 'The Undertones', 'Stereo Mc's' & 'The Beat'. Also a mouthwatering choice of food stalls to graze on during the 4 day holiday event. £70 early bird - will rise to £90. tel: 01609 780190.

Sat 18: The Watermill Thirsk. Summer Ball, in aid of The Clock 3 course dinner and dancing. 7pm for 7-30pm. £25. tel: 524494. www.theclock.org

Sun 19: Otterington Hall DL7 9HW: on A167 just north of South Otterington. North Yorkshire County Show. From 8am. £9, £7 child/conc, £30 family. tel: 485060. www.northyorkshireshow.co.uk

Sun 19: Sowerby. 'Open Gardens' in aid of Herriot Hospice & St. Oswald's Church. Refreshments & Plant Stall in Sowerby Parochial Hall. Belles Cantos Choir. 2pm - 6pm. £3. Children free.

Sun 19: Thirsk Auction Mart, Blakey Lane YO7 3AB. Jerry Green Dog Rescue Summer Festival. Dog show and family fun day. 10am-4pm. www.jerrygreendogs.org.uk

Mon 20: Thirlby Village Hall. Thirlby Local History Group. The Wars of the Roses - in particular the dispute over the royal succession. An illustrated talk by Dr David Kirby. 7.30pm. £3 including refreshments. tel: 597077

Tue 21 to Wed 22: Thirsk Athletics Bowls Club, Newsham Road, Thirsk, YO71QP. Bowling Open Day- all ages welcome. Come and give it a go! 2-4pm on both days. free entry. tel: 522711

Wed 22: Sandhutton & Breckenbrough Village Hall, TO7 4RS. Villages Mini Market. 11am - 3pm. Free entry.

Sat 25 to Sun 26: Hornby Castle, Bedale DL8 1PP. Yorkshire Game Fair. Hunting, Shooting, Fishing and love for the countryside. 9am-5pm. Adults £10, Child £3 (5-15). tel: 07557 948785 www.yorkshiregamefair.co.uk

Sat 25: Sutton Park. YO61 1DP. Huby and Sutton Show. £8, £6 OAP & concessions, £4 child, £18 family. www.hubyandsuttonshow.org.uk

Sat 25 to Sun 26: Thirsk Farmers' Auction Mart, Blakey Lane, Thirsk, YO7 3AB. Thirsk Truck Gathering 2016. Sat.10am - late. Sun. 10am - 3pm. tel: 07801 581882 web: www.thirsktruckgathering.com

Sun 26: Holy Trinity Church, Ripon. St. Cecilia's Orchestra present 'Summer with Strauss & Mozart'.

Thu 30: St Oswalds Church, Sowerby, Thirsk YO7 1JG. 100 yrs on - The Somme Remembered. Songs, words, pictures and personal writings. Presented by Graham Merriam. www.sowerbymusic.org.uk

July

Sat 2 to Sun 3: Duncombe Park, Helmsley, YO62 5EB. Steam and vintage rally. www.gytec.weebly.com

Sat 2 to Sat 23: Not Sun. Zillah Bell Gallery. Paul Curtis NEAC Recent Paintings. tel: 01845 522479 web: www.zillahbellgallery.co.uk

Fri 8: St Oswalds Church, Sowerby, Thirsk YO7 1JG. Sowerby Music. John Etheridge and Sweet Chorus. Featuring John's

dazzling guitar work and the scintillating violin of Chris Garrick. 7.30pm. tel: 518001 tickets: White Rose Bookcafe or www.sowerbymusic.org.uk

Tue 12: Sacred Heart Catholic Church Hall, Thirsk Rd., Northallerton. Northallerton & District Local History Society. 'The Markenfields of Markenfield Hall'. Janet Senior. 7pm.

Sat 16 to Sun 17: Masham HG4 4PB. Masham Steam Engine & Fair Organ Rally. tel: 01765 689569 www.mashamsteamrally.co.uk

Sun 24: Dishforth Airfield YO7 3EZ. Aldborough & Boroughbridge Agricultural Show. £7 Adults, 5-16s £1, under 5s free. tel: 07527 056360 www.boroughbridgeshow.co.uk

Sun 31: Thornycroft, Rainton, Thirsk YO7 3PH. Open Garden. A ¾ acre country garden created since 2009 comprising lawn areas, trees, shrubs and perennials and featuring some unusual plant specimens. Home-made teas. 11am-4.30pm. £4.00, children free. tel: 577157 www.martinfish.com

August

Mon 29: Newburgh Priory, Coxwold, YO61 4AS. Specialist Plant Fair. Refreshments & free parking. Children free. tel: 07730859441 www.flowerpowerfairs.co.uk

Mon 29: St. Mary's Church, Thirsk. YO7 1PL. Organ recital with Helen Proudley. 12.15pm to 12.45pm. Free but donations welcome.

Mon 29: The Golden Fleece Hotel, Market Place, Thirsk. Dippy Craft & Gift Fairs are coming to Thirsk. Top quality crafts & gifts await you. 10am - 4pm. Free entry.

Columba's Church

It seems a long time ago - it is a long time ago - that Archbishop Sentamu came through these villages on his Pilgrimage of Witness, Prayer and Blessing. It was the first week in January, when it was cold, wet and dark as we walked the highways and byways with him, and he talked with us, and shared in witness, and blessed us. It was a very special time.

On Sunday 22nd May, the Archbishop finally finished his Pilgrimage, and it was a privilege to be in York Minster that day, along with fifteen hundred other people, to join with the Archbishop and pray the Pilgrimage prayers with him for the last time.

Now that the better weather has arrived, there's even more incentive to get out and about again ... and take things at a slower pace for a bit ... and observe the created world around us ... and talk to one another ... and remember the other people with whom we share this planet. And give thanks ... as together as a nation, we make decisions about the way forward.

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Are these photographs familiar to anyone? Both are Topcliffe teams, the one on the right probably from 1916; the other is obviously much more recent - but still long before Beckham was born. If you think you can identify one of the players from old photos of your own perhaps, please ring Linda Nuttall on 577315.



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Topcliffe	Asenby
Garry Key (Chairman) Cliff House, Long St. 578900	Peter Palmer (Chairman) Hilltop Farm 578057
Lynn Wallis (Vice Chair) 32 East Lea 577437	Judy Lowe (Vice Chair) Green End Dairy 577911
David Bowman 21 East Lea 577843	Mel Arkley Thistledhu, 7 Jamesville Way 578728
Amanda Jameson-Allen 77 Long St 07594 225254	Peter Dale 577373
Anne-Marie Barningham	

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578702

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Either contact Caroline Parker on carolinevaleofmowbray@fsmail.net or Gemma Armstrong on gemarmstrong22@gmail.com or visit www.girlguiding.org.uk for further information and to register your interest.

Local Telephone Numbers & Websites

Topcliffe Surgery 577297 **Friarage Hospital** 01609 779911
www.topcliffesurgery.co.uk www.southtees.nhs.uk

Gas Emergencies 0800 111 999
Police 101 Textphone 18001 101

Hambleton DC 01609 779977 **Harrogate BC** 01423 568954
www.hambleton.gov.uk www.harrogate.gov.uk

HDC Cllr Garry Key 01845 578900
cllr.garry.key@hambleton.gov
HBC Cllr Margaret Atkinson 01765 658545

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WHAT'S ON AT THE ANGEL



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FRIDAY 26th AUGUST
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FREE ENTRY



Angel Weddings

Open Day 9th Oct



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